

REMARKS

Claims 33-38 and 40-52 are pending in this patent application.
Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated 2/25/03, the following was stated:

The reply filed on December 02, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action. In Applicant's election, it appears that Applicant has elected Group II and appears to have elected Species (J). However, this election is not proper since Applicant failed to provisionally indicate which claims read on the elected species and sub-species. ... Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an indication of the species and sub-species that is elected consonant with this requirement.

Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the Examiner's request. In particular, Applicant's invention, as defined by pending claims 33-38 and 40-52, relates to the embodiment shown in Figs. 39-45, and described at page 79, line 17 through page 89, line 6 of Applicant's patent application. All of claims 33-38 and 40-52 are readable on this species. And Applicant elects this species for prosecution on the merits.

For example, the following claim elements are supported by the following disclosed elements in the text and drawings of the patent application.

<u>Claim Element</u>	<u>Component/Reference Number</u>	<u>Relevant Figures</u>
guide catheter	702	39, 40, 45
insert assembly	704, 714	39, 40, 41, 44
tube segment	705	39, 40, 41, 44
pusher	706	39, 40, 41, 44
closure member	710	39, 40, 41

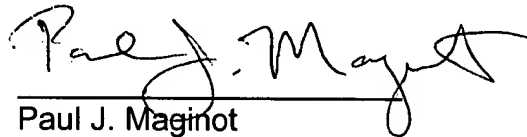
However, none of the pending claims 33-38 and 40-52 recite an "original catheter" or "locking system" as identified on page 3 of the 10/1/02 Office Action. Thus, Applicant does not understand what is being requested by the statement

in the 2/25/03 Office Action: "Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an indication of the species and sub-species that is elected consonant with this requirement" that is contained. For instance, the "sub-species: (locking system)" is not a claimed element. Clarification is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. Moreover, the Examiner is kindly requested to call Applicant's Attorney at 317-638-2922 if further issues still remain in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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